



## **Mayor Cannon's First 100 Days Progress Report: "Working Together is Working"**

Today marks my 100<sup>th</sup> day in office as Mayor of Charlotte. Thanks to citizens, City Council, the City Manager and City staff along with the business, philanthropic and faith communities, signs of progress are everywhere. These are not my accomplishments alone but rather ours, as a City, based on what I heard were important issues to be addressed.

During my oath of office address in December, I identified five priority areas for moving Charlotte forward: 1) Economic Development & Global Competitiveness 2) Transportation 3) Housing 4) Jobs and opportunities for all and 5) Community Safety through Prevention.

I'm happy to report that working together is working. Examples of progress in each area include:

### **Economic Development and Global Competitiveness:**

The economic vision for the Charlotte region is to become "a global hub of commerce" and we have the assets that will help us to become more competitive including the 6<sup>th</sup> busiest airport in the country, a new intermodal facility, a regional transit system, a strong higher education sector and a strong business climate. Progress in this area includes:

- Working with regional private, public and not-for-profit sector leaders, Mooresville Mayor Miles Atkins and I led the Global Charlotte Manufacturing Consortium to the White House to discuss the Investing in Manufacturing Community Partnership (IMCP), an initiative that will accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing and create jobs in cities around the country. The Centralina Council of Governments secured a \$200,000 planning grant in Phase 1 of the partnership and Charlotte is now in the running for its share of a \$25 million program designed to aid communities that have shown they can attract and grow advanced manufacturing. The 12 recipients, to be called "manufacturing communities," are expected to be announced in June.
- Working with the City's Aviation department, Norfolk Southern opened the new Intermodal facility and started moving cargo in December. It is expected to generate \$7.6 billion in regional economic development throughout the next 20 years. It also promises to create more than 7,000 jobs in Charlotte and the surrounding region by 2030. We will continue to maximize this facility by improving the infrastructure and promoting development around it. This solidifies Charlotte's place as a hub for commerce in the United States.
- Working with Mecklenburg County, CRVA, the Bobcats and the hospitality community, we renewed the CIAA Tournament contract for six more years. As part of the team who recruited this event almost a decade ago, it's even more gratifying to relocate their headquarters here. This economic generator, which attracts tens of thousands of visitors, has an annual economic impact of more than \$47 million.

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## **Economic Development and Global Competitiveness (continued):**

- Working with the Airport Commission, Governor McCrory and NC Senator Bob Rucho, we are continuing to pursue all options to achieve the best business model and protect one of our most valued assets, Charlotte Douglas International Airport, which is now the second-largest hub of the world's largest airline and the City's most significant economic generator.
- Working together, The City Council expanded the scope of the City's Economic Development Committee to include Global Competitiveness and added two of my suggestions to their agenda:
  - 1) Plans to support economic development related to Intermodal Facility and the Airport
  - 2) Global Business Recruitment.

## **Jobs Opportunities and Workforce Training:**

The most recent jobs report is great news for our area with the Mecklenburg County unemployment rate now at 6.7 percent. Working with the Chamber, Center City Partners and other ED entities we have announced 1,394 new jobs through expansions and relocations including:

- 810 Electrolux (Home appliances)
- 230 AIG (Insurance)
- 125 Irongate (Home Mortgage)
- 80 Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions (Healthcare)
- 50 Eclipse Automation (Manufacturing)
- 30 Fujisan Thermal Ribbon USA (Distribution)
- 40 InChem Corp (Manufacturing)
- 16 Bonomi North America (Manufacturing)
- 10 Yamada Dobby (Manufacturing)
- 3 WUKO (Metal/Machining manufacturing)

However, some of our citizens still need jobs and local companies have positions to fill so what they need is a connector.

- Working with Charlotte Works, the Urban League, Charlotte Chamber and the Hospitality and Tourism Alliance, we hosted the first-ever Mayor's Job Fair on Feb. 22 that attracted nearly 100 employers and 2000+ job seekers. 51 have found new jobs to date with more in the pipeline. We will hold another in the fall.

Apprenticeship and other workplace learning programs are solutions to help close the skills gap and to give companies a strategy for building talent pipelines.

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## **Jobs Opportunities and Workforce Training (continued):**

- Working through the City's Neighborhood and Business Services Department, we are busy converting Mayor's Youth Employment Program (MYEP) internships to apprenticeships and adding 100 new partners to the program. Companies such as Electrolux, Belk, Siemens, Compass Group and Microsoft are participating along with City departments such as Fire, CATS, Corporate Communications and CharMeck311. Since 1986, MYEP has worked to prepare Charlotte's youth for future employment.

## **Transportation:**

A thriving global City is one that can move both people and goods so transportation of all kinds continues to be a focus. Progress in this area includes:

- Working with 15 other newly-elected Mayors, I went to the White House and met with President Obama and Vice President Biden to share Charlotte's priorities, specifically goals for extending the light rail line and building a bigger transportation hub that could handle goods along the supply routes created by an expanded Panama Canal. I asked the President for assistance acquiring federal grants to help pay for new projects such as the distribution hub and an expansion of transportation services.
- The Blue Line Extension is on track. I am working with CATS to be sure contracts are awarded and construction begins shortly so we can meet the targeted opening date of spring 2017.
- Working with the Federal Transit Administration and CATS, we gained approval to begin project development for Phase 2 of the Gold Line that will connect Charlotte's east and west sides. The FTA's go-ahead also allows CATS to apply later this year for a \$63 million grant that would pay half the cost of the extension. If everything goes according to plan, construction will begin approximately in 2016 with service beginning in late 2019.
- Working with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, we received an update on the new airport control tower. He reconfirmed the Agency's support for this important project and commitment to commissioning the new tower by 2019.
- Working with the County to make Charlotte the easiest place to do business, I suggested a review of the Permitting and Inspections process to the Transportation and Planning Committee, which they gladly accepted.

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## **Housing & Homelessness:**

A U.S. Conference of Mayors Report released last month said Charlotte's population of homeless families grew by 23% last year and predicts another increase this year. While overall, homelessness is declining in our community, the lack of supportive and affordable housing is unacceptable and is being aggressively addressed. Progress in this area includes:

- Working with U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan, we applied for a \$3.8 million Homelessness Grant.
- Working with the religious leaders, we created the Interfaith Advisory Council to focus on homelessness and education issues. From churches to synagogues and mosques, this group will partner with the City to creatively address these issues.
- Working with the faith-based community, we received a \$300,000 donation from Elevation Church for the Social Impact Housing Fund that will be administered through the Foundation for the Carolinas to help fight homelessness.
- Working with the City Council, I referred the Façade Grant Program to the Housing and Neighborhood Services Committee to explore a better grant funding model, attract business development opportunities and create a better image for some of our most threatened corridors.

## **Community Safety through Prevention**

Charlotte strives to be the safest large city in America through citizen and local government partnerships. Historically-low crime rates only tell part of the story. Our City's readiness to respond to crisis, efforts to prevent crime and empathy for those needing a second chance are what differentiates the Queen City from others.

- Working with first responders, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, Charlotte Department of Transportation, North Carolina Department of Transportation, Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) Mecklenburg County, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS), media and community, we managed the February snow storm well, keeping residents safe and informed. This true team effort avoided the plights of other Southern cities and kept:
  - facilities open
  - services offered
  - roads/freeways/bridges treated and safe for travel
  - buses and light rail running
  - the homeless warm
  - airport runways passable



## **Community Safety through Prevention (continued)**

- Working with the Mayor’s Mentoring Alliance, a coalition of existing mentoring organizations with a primary focus of providing positive role models for young people in areas ranging from academic assistance to leadership development, I personally recruited 100 new mentors.
- Working with Safe Alliance, and supporting the Jamie Kimble Foundation, I’m recruiting to place and train 100 domestic violence volunteers and supporting a volunteer fair taking place this month.
- In May, to help people with community re-entry intentions, I’m working with the Exodus Foundation to sponsor the “Restoration, Redemption and Re-Entry Conference.”
- Working with Holland and Knight’s Intergovernmental Relations Team, we are competing for a “Solving Cold Cases with DNA” Grant from the National Institutes for Justice to help close cold cases where biological evidence is available to be analyzed using the latest technologies. This will help individuals and family members bring closure to tragic losses of a loved one. Two previous grants totaling nearly \$685,000 were awarded in 2008 and 2011.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, I was in Washington at the National League of Cities Meeting. While there, I met one-on-one with U.S. NC Senators Burr and Kagan as well as Representatives Hudson and Pittenger. Additionally, I met with Congressmen Meadows and McHenry to broaden current and future support for Charlotte and the region.

Today, I’m speaking at the Global Competitiveness and Advanced Manufacturing Summit along with CPCC’s Dr. Tony Zeiss, Governor McCrory, Chase Saunders and others. Here, we will engage with business leaders, educators, economic developers and policymakers as we work to fulfill the vision of making Charlotte an ever-stronger global hub of commerce.

As working together works is my mantra, I could not have accomplished any of these milestones without City Manager Ron Carlee, City staff, the private sector, non-profits and the faith-based community. I particularly want to acknowledge City Council for taking on expanded rolls and working together so well. As 12 personalities bringing different perspectives to public policy, we won’t and shouldn’t always agree on every issue. What binds us together is a shared vision of moving Charlotte forward and making the Queen City a global leader and regional partner that offers economic opportunity for all.

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## **Looking Ahead:**

Moving Charlotte forward in all areas remains our top priority.

In the coming months, we will focus on:

- Recruiting more jobs, both white & blue collar
- Getting the airport issue resolved
- Identifying more ways to put Charlotte on the national and global stage

As Mayor of the City I grew up in, it is very rewarding to work together with various groups for the greater good of Charlotte. As a servant leader, I've always known there is no "I" in team and there's certainly not one in Mayor. Working together is working thanks to the collaborative spirit that Charlotte is known for.

From trips to Washington, the snow storm of the decade and exciting CIAA HQ relocation/contract extension news to the Mayor's First Job Fair and go-ahead on the Gold Line, the past 3+ months have been a whirlwind to say the least.

Let's continue working together and see what kind of great results are realized in the near future.

Sincerely Yours in Public Service,

Patrick D. Cannon  
Mayor of Charlotte